

MARCH 2009



## MARCH MEETING

Larry Frye, WA4EKD, will be our March speaker. Larry works for the City of Greensboro as a Communica-

tions specialist. He will be speaking on his radio and airplane activities.

J.B. Archinard ("Arch"),

KT4AT was our speaker for the February meeting. He spoke to us about D-Star repeaters.

See you at the meeting.

## AMATEUR RADIO EXEMPTION ADDED TO CELL PHONE BAN BILL

The North Carolina Senate Commerce Committee has added language to Senate Bill S12 that would specifically exempt Amateur Radio operation from a proposed ban on cell phone use while driving in the state. The amendment was added by NC Senator William Purcell, at the request of Bob Conder K4RLC, ARRL NC Section State Government Liaison. The amendment was accepted without debate at the start of the committee meeting on February 17. After other aspects of the bill were discussed and amendments unrelated to Amateur Radio were adopted, the bill was tabled until a future date.

As currently written, the bill states that "no person shall operate a motor vehicle on a public street or highway while using a mobile telephone or any additional technology associated with a mobile telephone while the vehicle is in motion." The amended language changes the definition of a mobile telephone, adding, "This term does not

include two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers used by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service." The language of the amendment was supplied by the ARRL.

Amateur Radio operation was never targeted by the bill, according to Sen. Purcell, a co-sponsor, and would have been exempt anyway because it isn't covered under the definition of "mobile telephone." Conder requested the specific exemption, pointing out that Amateur Radio is not well understood by all law enforcement officers, so Hams operating mobile might be cited by officers who don't recognize the difference between a Ham Radio and a mobile phone.

During committee discussion, one Senator asked if the bill would cover "push-to-talk" operation, like Nextel. Not everyone understood the distinction, and after it was described more completely, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Charlie Dannelly, said that "probably would" be included in

the ban.

Media stories about the bill point out that similar bills have been proposed over the past several years, and have always been defeated or died in committee. That fate is also expected for this bill, although other states have enacted bans, and last year North Carolina banned cell phone use for drivers under the age of 18. Conder said even if this bill fails, having the Amateur Radio exemption is good because the language will likely be adopted automatically when the bill resurfaces next year.

—January NC Section News,  
Gary Pearce KN4AQ,  
ARRL Public Information  
Officer

### HPARC Meeting March 2, 2009

Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville

Meal at 6:30 pm  
Business meeting at 7:30 pm

# MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

At 7:30 pm Mark McMahan, in absence of Chris Horne, opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 7 members and 4 visitors in attendance.

There was a mention of those sick.

Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report were handed out. Motion to accept both reports as written was given by Mike Cumbo; seconded by

Roland Wright. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

New business: Foxhunt for January was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later time.

Announcements: Our visitors, Jim and Joyce Ribas, announced that they have pre-registration tickets for the Charlotte Hamfest for those interested.

The program was given by

JB "Arch" Archinald. Arch spoke on digital radio, D-Star repeaters and his work in making controllers for D-Star repeaters.

Reminder to tip waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Cumbo. Seconded by Mike Walker. Motion passed.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## DESECHEO ISLAND K5D IS ON THE AIR

The long awaited K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition is now on the air. The QSO count was slightly under 10,000 in the first 24 hours. This, with only two stations in operation most of that time.

Getting to Desecheo took the operators a bit longer than anticipated. This, due to higher-than-expected winds

which delayed helicopter trips from the transport boat to the island campsite. This meant that the group was unable to complete their planned for full setup on Thursday, February 12th. That problem is well behind them.

Meantime the Caribbean Amateur Radio Group is planning to hold a satellite QSO

with the Desecheo Island DXpedition team. The contact had planned for Friday, February 20th, using the AO-51 satellite.

So far the K5D has operation has exceeded 40,000 contacts in the short time it has been on the air.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1645, Feb. 20, 2009

## DTV TRANSITION WILL BE DELAYED TO JUNE

The transition from analog to all-digital telecasting in the United States will be delayed some four months. In a heated

debate by legislators Wednesday, February 4th, the House of Representatives voted to push the cut-off date for ana-

log TV from February 17th to June 12th.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1643, Feb. 6, 2009

## THE APPLE MAC HITS 25

Happy birthday to the Apple Macintosh computer which turned 25 on January 24th. The Mac, as it became known in computing circles, made its public debut in 1984.

The project to create the Macintosh was started by legendary computer maker Jeff Raskin. The original machine had a 9 inch screen in an

upright beige case, 128 kilobytes of RAM, internal floppy drive, and came with a keyboard and single-button mouse.

The operating system featured a Graphical User Interface with the mouse used to navigate the computer. This, by clicking on screen icons rather than having to type

command line instructions.

The first Macintosh was unveiled in a television advertising campaign directed by film maker Ridley Scott. Those advertisements were originally aired during that year's Superbowl game in late January.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1644, Feb. 13, 2009

The HPARC Newsletter is published monthly by the High Point Amateur Radio Club (HPARC) for its members. The HPARC Newsletter serves as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to Amateur Radio. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the HPARC or its officers. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided the HPARC is properly credited.

Complimentary issues of the HPARC Newsletter are available by writing to the HPARC Newsletter at PO Box 4941, High Point, NC 27263. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$8.00 a year. An email version of the HPARC Newsletter is also available. Contributions and letters to the editor are welcome.

Membership is open in the HPARC to all licensed Amateur Radio operators. Membership is \$24.00 a year. Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but who do not currently hold a license. Associate membership is \$12.00 a year. Student membership is also available for \$12.00 a year.

The High Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at Rosa Mae's Cafe, 1322 National Highway, Thomasville. The business meeting starts at 7:30 pm followed by a short program of interest. Family and visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, please call or email one of the HPARC officers listed in this newsletter.

## NEW FUEL CELL FOR PORTABLE DEVICES IN DEVELOPMENT

Scientists in the UK are attempting to master new technology to power cars, portable computers, mobile phones and numerous other battery-dependent devices. One that could also be of benefit to numerous mobile and portable Ham Radio field operations.

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been

given almost £300,000 to create a cheaper and lower temperature fuel cell. To make this happen, the university's chemistry department is trying to develop what it calls carbon-tolerant fuel cell devices. Like their larger brethren, these cells convert fuel to electric power without the need for combustion. Unlike older fuel cells, these

will be better able to cope with the carbon monoxide found in the fuel that it is converting into power.

The project leader is Dr Angela Kruth. She hopes that this new type fuel cell can be introduced to the market in the near future.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1641, Jan. 23 2009

## TWO COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES COLLIDE

Two communications satellites collided in the first-ever crash of two such spacecraft on-orbit. The collision involved a United States Iridium commercial satellite, which was launched in 1997, and a Russian satellite launched in

1993. The Russian satellite was believed to be nonfunctioning and out of control.

The Iridium craft weighed 1,235 pounds, and the Russian craft nearly a ton. Scientists have yet to determine how many fragments were gener-

ated or how large they might be. NASA said it will take weeks to determine the full magnitude of the crash which occurred nearly 500 miles over Siberia on Tuesday, February 10th.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1644, Feb. 13, 2009

## A BIG TOWER VICTORY FOR A CALIFORNIA HAM

Alex Zubarau WB6X will be allowed to put his tower back up after a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge rules the city of Palmdale was wrong to force him to remove it after granting him a valid permit.

Judge David Yaffe handed down the ruling on Feb. 6.

Zubarau found himself caught up in a neighborhood dispute that spilled over into a petition filed with the City of Palmdale after it had granted him permission to install his tower.

As with most cases, this one goes back a few years to 2005 when Zubarau first applied for a permit. It was approved and Zubarau put in a 22-foot crank-up tower which had the ability to rise to 55 feet.

But he didn't put a 4-element, 20 meter antenna on the tower until January 2007.

That's when his problems began and the neighbors raised such concerns as the aesthetic impact it was having, potentially suppressing property values and, the big one, causing interference with other electronic devices.

After getting the neighbors petition, the Palmdale council voted to revoke Zubarau's permit and he was directed by the planning commission to take not only the antenna but the tower structure down.

Enter the American Radio Relay League with volunteer counsel Len Shaffer WA6QHD and lots of support from Hams in the Palmdale area as well as individuals and organizations from around the region who contributed money to his legal fight.

Before going to court, Shaffer - Zubarau's attorney -

tried to convince the council and its attorney that the antenna and the tower posed no interference to the neighbors.

As Zubarau's case was heading to court, the Palmdale Planning Commission began drafting an amendment to the community's antenna ordinance that would severely hamper amateur radio operators.

The Amateur community quickly got word about it and began efforts to derail it.

In spite of that, it appears Palmdale officials are willing to spend tax dollars to continue their efforts to work on the proposed ordinance. It's unclear, however, whether they'll appeal the judge's ruling in the Zubarau case.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1644, Feb. 13, 2009



**High Point Amateur Radio Club**  
**PO Box 4941**  
**High Point, NC 27263**

## HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 7-8 — ARRL International DX Contest,  
phone
- 8 — Daylight Savings Time begins
- 14-15 — Charlotte Hamfest  
(note new location)
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 20 — First day of Spring
- 20 — NC Arbor Day
- 29 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

Jim Mason — March 19  
 Fred Blackman — March 31

### 2009 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Mrs. Winner's,  
 South Main St.**